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DERMESTID LARVAE DAMAGING KODACHROME SLIDES

Kodachrome slides (35 mm.) in cardboard mounts, stored in metal slide boxes (8″ x 15″) were found to have developed a number of irregular clear spots. Microscopic examination of the slides revealed feeding marks of a mandibulate insect. These feeding marks occurred most frequently at the edges of the slides, close to the cardboard mount. Larvae of a dermestid beetle, *Trogoderma ornatum* (Say) were found feeding on the emulsion of the film. The main ingredients of the emulsion are gelatin and dyes. Hinton (1945) records the larvae feeding on eggs of spiders, insect and plant museum specimens, grains, seeds and nuts, skins, furs, feathers, and woolens.

In order to control these insects, the insides of the boxes were treated with a 2% Chlordane solution. Fumigants were considered but the Eastman Kodak Company did not feel that a fumigant containing carbon tetrachloride and ethylene dibromide would be safe. They suggested that carbon tetrachloride alone would not affect the emulsion. Placing a slide in a home freezer was suggested but rejected because of condensation when the slides are returned to room temperature. —E. J. GERBERG, PH.D., *Insect Control and Research, Inc., Baltimore 7, Maryland.*